



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**DEPARTMENT OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY**

ORDER OF NOTICE

D.T.E. 02- 82

December 5,
2002

Verizon New England Inc. d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts ("Verizon") is required to publish the attached legal notice in a one eighth page advertisement in the Boston Globe, and in the specialty publications serving the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, such as the Deaf Community News. Publication should be made by December 11, 2002 in the Boston Globe, and in the specialty publications as soon as possible, using best efforts. In addition, Verizon is required to provide by December 11, 2002, a copy of this notice to the organizations in the attached Verizon listing entitled "Resources for Relay Feedback." Notices also should be distributed in the form of flyers to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community outreach organizations, and posted to Internet electronic bulletin boards serving that community, as soon as possible, using best efforts.

Verizon is also required to provide a copy of this notice to all Dual Party Relay Service ("DPRS") providers on its bidders lists from the previous three Request for Bids issued for DPRS, as well as any actual DPRS providers responding to those previous three Request for Bids, and any DPRS providers indicating to Verizon an interest in providing DPRS in Massachusetts.

Verizon is also required to provide a copy of this notice to all participants in D.T.E. 98-73, D.P.U. 95-54, and the service list in D.P.U./D.T.E. 96-118, by December 11, 2002.

Verizon is required to make return of service and publication to the Department on or before December 16, 2002.

By Order of the Department,

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.T.E. 02-82

December 5,
2002

Verizon New England Inc. d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts, Re: agreement with Vista Information Technologies Inc. to continue to provide Dual Party Relay Services in Massachusetts.

In a letter filed with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") on November 6, 2002, Verizon New England Inc. d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts ("Verizon") informed the Department that it had reached agreement with Vista Technologies Inc. ("Vista") to continue to provide Dual Party Relay Services ("DPRS") in Massachusetts. Vista has been providing DPRS in Massachusetts since May 1999, and its current contract with Verizon expires on June 30, 2003. Verizon states that it has negotiated with Vista to continue to provide DPRS for another two years, with an option for continued service for a third and fourth year. Under the terms of the agreement, Vista has agreed to provide additional features and functionality at lower prices and at the same quality of service levels.

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 225 and G.L. c. 166, § 15E, DPRS must provide a functionally equivalent means by which all Massachusetts subscribers who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and/or have disabilities affecting speech or clarity of speech will be able to communicate over the existing telecommunications network by utilizing telecommunications devices for the deaf (commonly referred to as TDD/TTY).

The Department is requesting comments on the reasonableness of the proposed contract extension. Any person may file written comments on the proposed contract extension with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, Boston, MA 02110. Comments must be received by the Department no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Tuesday, December 31, 2002. Reply comments are due Wednesday, January 8, 2003. All comments must indicate the docket number of this matter (D.T.E. 02-82). Verizon's letter may be viewed at the Department's offices Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., or on the Department's web site. The Department does not intend this proceeding to be an adjudicatory proceeding pursuant to G.L. c. 30A. Any questions regarding this proceeding should be directed to Joan Foster Evans, Hearing Officer, at (617) 305-3613, or at Joan.Evans@state.ma.us.

All written pleadings or comments also should be submitted to the Department in

electronic format by e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us (copy to Joan.Evans@state.ma.us). The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) an easily identifiable case caption; (2) the docket number; (3) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (4) a brief descriptive title of document (e.g., comments or petition to intervene). The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and phone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be written in either Word Perfect (naming the document with a ".wpd" suffix) or in Microsoft Word, (naming the document with a ".doc" suffix). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. Documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's Website, <http://www.state.ma.us/dpu/>.